

## Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /031 W  
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O 271200Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3150

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T GENEVA 6777

EXDIS

FROM STERNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

1. FIRST MEETING OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY WORKING GROUP CONVENED AT 5:00 P.M., DECEMBER 26, AND LASTED FOR ABOUT 90 MINUTES. MEETING CONSISTED ENTIRELY OF RESTATEMENT BY BOTH SIDES OF "PRINCIPLES" WHICH THEY BELIEVE SHOULD GOVERN DISENGAGEMENT. THESE HAD ALL BEEN PREVIOUSLY PUT FORWARD IN KILOMETER 101 TALKS, AND NOTHING NEW OF SUBSTANCE EMERGED. NEITHER SIDE CHOSE, ON THIS OCCASION, TO PUT FORWARD ANY SPECIFICS OR DRAW LINES ON MAP. GENEVA MILITARY TALKS HAVE, THEREFORE, GOTTEN OFF TO START COUPLE OF STEPS BACK FROM MOST ADVANCED POSITIONS ACHIEVED AT KILOMETER 101 TALKS.

2. GENERAL SIILASVUO BRIEFED AMBASSADOR VINAGRADOV AND MYSELF IMMEDIATELY AFTER MEETING ENDED. EACH SIDE HAD THREE MEMBERS SEATED AROUND U-SHAPED TABLE: FOR ISRAELIS, GENERAL GUR, COL. SION, AND FONMIN AIDE; FOR EGYPTIANS, BRIG. MAGDOUB, COL. HOWEIDY, AND EL-ARABI  
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OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, FOR U.N., SIILASVOU, CAPT. FALLON, AND U.N. POLICIAL EXPERT JONAH. BY PRIOR AGREEMENT, RECORDING WAS MADE OF PROCEEDINGS WHICH WILL BE TREATED AS SECRET WITHIN U.N. AND MADE AVAILABLE ONLY UPON REQUEST

OF TWO PARTIES. NO WRITTEN TRANSCRIPT OF SUMMARY WILL BE MADE. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO LET SIILASVOU HANDLE PRESS QUERIES: HE WILL MAKE MINIMAL STATEMENT SAYING AT THIS FIRST MEETING PARTIES REVIEWED AND DISCUSSED PRINCIPLES OF DISENGAGEMENT.

3. AT MEETING EGYPTIANS INSISTED THAT THERE BE NO HAND-SHAKES. SIILASVOU SAID THAT ATMOSPHERE AT BEGINNING WAS "FROSTY", BUT THAT IT IMPROVED SOMEWHAT AS MEETING PROGRESSED, AND AT END THERE WAS EVEN SOME MILD JOULARITY.

4. SIILASVOU LED OFF WITH SHORT STATEMENT, AFTER WHICH GEN. MAGDOUB SET FORTH WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS EGYPT'S "MAIN PRINCIPLES FOR DISENGAGEMENT."

(1) AGREEMENT MUST RESULT IN ISRAELI FORCES BEING MOVED EAST OF CANAL.

(2) DISTANCE BETWEEN THE FORCES MUST EXCEED THE RANGE OF LAND FORCE WEAPONS.

(3) SECURITY ZONES WITH LIGHTLY ARMED TROOPS MUST BE ESTABLISHED.

(4) PLAN MUST ENTAIL BUFFER ZONE WIDE ENOUGH TO ALLOW U.N.E.F. TO OPERATE FREELY.

(5) DISENGAGEMENT LINE MUST BE FAR ENOUGH BACK FROM CANAL FOR EGYPT TO SECURE ENTIRE CANAL ZONE.

5. GENERAL GUR SAID ISRAEL AGREED TO THESE PRINCIPLES BUT WISHED TO ADD TWO MORE:

(1) FROM NEW DISENGAGEMENT LINES, NEITHER PARTY SHOULD DERIVE POLITICAL BENEFIT. SIILASVOU SAID GUR AND SION ELABORATED AT LENGTH ON THIS PRINCIPLE, GIST OF WHICH WAS THAT ISRAEL BELIEVED DISENGAGEMENT  
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LINES MUST REFLECT MILITARY OUTCOME OF WAR, AND NOT BE FIRST STAGE OF WITHDRAWAL IN BROADER POLITICAL PLAN FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT.

(2) THERE SHOULD BE RECIPROCITY OR A MUTUAL CONTRIBUTION. ISRAELIS EXPLAINED THAT THIS PRINCIPLE MEANT THAT IF ISRAEL WERE TO WITHDRAW THERE MUST ALSO BE SOME EGYPTIAN WITHDRAWAL. ACCORDING SIILASVOU, EGYPTIANS SAID (AS THEY HAD SEVERAL TIMES AT KILO-METER 101) THAT THEY REJECTED THIS PROPOSITION (MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL) AND CONVERSATION CAME TO A MOMENTARY HALT. SIILASVOU AT THIS POINT PUT FORTH SUGGESTION THAT IF ASSUMPTION WERE TO BE MADE EGYPTIANS WERE NOT

PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM THEIR PRESENT LINES, COULD ISRAEL SUGGEST ANY OTHER FORM THAT "RECIPROCITY" OR "MUTUAL CONTRIBUTION" COULD TAKE. GUR REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT AT THIS TIME AUTHORIZED TO GO ANY FURTHER THAT THE STATEMENT OF THE TWO PRINCIPLES WHICH HE HAD MADE.

6. SIILASVOU COMMENTED THERE WAS VERY LITTLE INTERCHANGE ON THIS OCCASION AND NEITHER SIDE SEEMED TO WANT TO TRY TO DRAW THE OTHER OUT CONCERNING ITS PRINCIPLES. THERE SEEMED TO BE TACIT UNDERSTANDING, SAID SIILASVOU, THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE FURTHER PROGRESS UNTIL ISRAELI ELECTIONS ARE OUT OF THE WAY.

7. I HAVE TOUCHED BASE WITH BOTH EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS AFTER MEETING AND THEY BOTH SEEM REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH WAY THINGS WENT. EGYPTIANS SAID THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED ISRAELI OFFERING WAS SO MEAGER, BUT COMPLAINT SEEMED PRO FORMA. EVRON SAID HIS SIDE WAS DISAPPOINTED AT STIFFNESS OF ATMOSPHERE NOT PRESENT AT KILOMETER 101, BUT "AT LEAST EGYPTIANS SEEMED TO KNOW THE RULES AND DID PRESS US UNREASONABLY."

8. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M., DECEMBER 28. BASSIN

SECRET

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